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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/820,530	03/29/2001	Kazutoyo Machiro	6514-9	5426
7055	7590	10/18/2004	EXAMINER	
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			ZHONG, CHAD	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2152	9
DATE MAILED: 10/18/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/820,530	MAEHIRO, KAZUTOYO <i>[Signature]</i>	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chad Zhong	2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2, 3</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-10 are presented for examination.
2. It is noted that although the present application does contain line numbers in specification and claims, the line numbers in the claims do not correspond to the preferred format. The preferred format is to number each line of every claim, with each claim beginning with line 1. For ease of reference by both the Examiner and Applicant all future correspondence should include the recommended line numbering.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
4. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Riddle, US 5,854,898 in view of 'Official Notice'.

5. As per claim 1, Riddle teaches an electronic conference joining method in which a chairman who opens an electronic conference sets an area (an additional media stream) and in which guests who join said electronic conference send a request for access to said area to from the terminals of the guests', the method comprising (Col. 1, lines 10-15; Col. 3, lines 24-27; Col. 5, lines 29-35; Col. 7, lines 1-5):

storing setup information for setting said area in a storage section of a chairman's terminal (Col. 7, lines 39-42),

creating from the chairman's terminal an invitation message comprising said setup information stored in said storage section (Col. 7, lines 1-10, lines 35-67),

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giving an instruction from the chairman's terminal for transmission of said invitation message (Col. 8, lines 42-52),

transmitting from the chairman's terminal an invitation signal comprising said setup information to said guests' terminals based on said instruction (Col. 7, lines 40-67),

receiving at the guests' terminals said invitation signal and obtaining said setup information (Col. 8, lines 40-62),

creating at the guests' terminals an access request signal comprising said setup information (Col. 7, lines 50-67; Col. 2, lines 5-11), and

transmitting from the guests' terminals to said server, said access request signal in response to a guests' instruction (Col. 7, lines 10-15).

6. Riddle does not explicitly teach an area on a database on a server. "Official Notice" is taken that the concept and advantages of providing for server with database storage is well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide Riddle's additional stream on an area over a database on a server because it would provide for remote interaction between storage thus alleviate end client burdens.

7. As per claim 2, Riddle teaches the electronic conference joining method according to claim 1, wherein said setup information comprises at least one of a name of said electronic conference and a code number for accessing said area of said database (Col. 7, lines 60-67).

8. As per claim 3, Riddle teaches the electronic conference joining method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at the chairman's terminal, an opening response signal from said server, said opening response signal indicating that said area has been set in said database, said opening response signal

comprises an ID number for allowing said server to identify said area of said database (Col. 5, lines 29-35; Col. 7, lines 60-67),

transmitting from the chairman's terminal said invitation signal containing said ID number, and adding said ID number contained in said invitation signal to said access request signal (Col. 7, lines 50-67).

9. As per claim 4, Riddle teaches the electronic conference joining method according to claim 3, wherein said setup information comprises at least one of a name of said electronic conference and a code number for accessing said area of said database (Col. 7, lines 60-67).

10. As per claims 5-8, claims 5-8 are rejected for the same reasons as rejection to claims 1-4 above respectively.

11. As per claims 9-10, claims 9-10 are rejected for the same reasons as rejection to claim 1 above.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents and publications are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to "Method And Apparatus For Joining Electronic Conference".

- i. US 6708172 Wong et al.
- ii. US 6651086 Manber et al.
- iii. US 5793365 Tang et al.
- iv. US 6,412,073 Rangan.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Zhong whose telephone number is (703) 305-0718. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on 703-305-8498. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

CZ
September 3, 2004



Dung C. Dinh
Primary Examiner